

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
Tuesday, 3 August 2010
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

1. Call to Order: JoAnn Robinson, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair Richard Duffy and Commissioners Jane Becker, Eric Stange, and Dianne Schaefer.
2. Review of minutes from May 2010: Minutes from May were reviewed and approved as amended.
3. Communications Received:
4. Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:
 - a. Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
 - b. Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – Nothing to report.
 - c. Arlington Historical Society (Meister) –
 - d. Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – Nothing to report.
 - e. Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
 - f. Mill Brook Linear Park Study Committee (Robinson/Duffy)- Tours of Mill Brook area were given.
 - g. Battle Road Scenic Byway/Tourism & Economic Development (Robinson)-Nothing to report.
 - h. Tourism and Economic Development (Robinson) –First meeting held June 24, next meeting in the fall.
 - i. Cooke’s Hollow (Robinson)-
5. Historical Commission FY 2011 Budget – Same as last year.
6. Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:
 - a. 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – Nothing to report.
 - b. 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Mr. Duffy had meeting with Redevelopment Board.
 - c. Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy –Nothing to report.
 - d. 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – Close to completion.
 - e. 43-45 Massachusetts Ave.(Shapiro) 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.
 - f. 71 Walnut Street (Brown) 3/09 Guthrie- No report.
 - g. 53 Brattle Street (Slebodnick) 6/09 Guthrie- No report.
 - h. 6 Park Street (White) 12/09 Meister- No report.
 - i. 9 Fessenden Road (1/10) / Duffy- Nothing to report.

- j. Jefferson Cutter House (1 Whittemore Park) 8/10 Robinson-Added August 3, 2010.

7. Continuing Projects

- a. Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson –
- b. Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Receiving bids for wall.
- c. Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
- d. Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – Nothing to report.
- e. Historic House Markers: Duffy – Nothing to report.
- f. Town Hall: Duffy – Nothing to report.
- g. Web Site: Stange –We now have a gmail account (arlhistcommission@gmail.com) for messages.
- h. Fire alarm antenna installations: Schaefer- Nothing to report.

8. Discussion and Hearing:

8:00pm- Discussion about changes to windows at the Jefferson Cutter House.

Presenter- Dave Berry from Planning Department

- Windows need to be repaired, restored or replaced.
- Looking at renovation of windows and has spent time researching cost and plans to rebuild windows.
- Shared photos of windows- show rotted sills.
- Commission approves plans to restore windows and sills.
- Ms. Robinson will be the monitor for this project.
- Also discussed the fence at the Jefferson Cutter House.
 - 1. First installed 19 years ago
 - 2. Fence is not historic. May want to use a simpler design and use caps design for area closest to house entrance.
 - 3. Suggestion to not have fence in front of the Jefferson Cutter House, but have fencing around the side garden.

Discussion ended at 8:24pm

8:30pm- Discussion regarding 252 & 258-260 Massachusetts Ave.

Presenters: David Levy from Housing Corporation of Arlington and Leslie Donovan-
Historic Preservation Consultant for the project.

- Housing Corporation of Arlington will purchase the properties to provide 32 units of affordable housing
- Shared photos of the current condition of the buildings.
- Shared plans for property rehabilitation.
- In order to apply for state and federal historic tax credit funds, need letters of approval from the Arlington Historical Commission, Massachusetts Preservation and Local Office of the National Trust. Application is due on 8/31/2010
- Commissioners asked about the typical content of the letters submitted (buzz words):
 1. Rehabilitation project
 2. May be helpful to see sample letters to reference as a model.
 3. Significance of the buildings
 4. In a state now that needs work.
 5. How does this tie into local/state planning?

Mr. Duffy will write the letter for this project.

Discussion ended at 9:00pm.

9:00pm- Discussion regarding 63 Claremont Avenue/window installation

- Permission requested from the Arlington Historical Commission for the sign off to the Building Department and on the same day the windows had already been installed.
- Sent specifics after the fact and they would have been approved and were less than 25% of the elevation.
- Inform Building Department about the Pella's
- Changes were like for like.

9. Old Business:

10. New Business:

- a. Town Day/September 25, 2010- We need to purchase a new tent.
- b. FEMA/Insurance evaluation Town Hall and Whittemore Robbins House.

Town is applying for insurance claim to help with repairs to the water damages to the Whittemore Robbins House and Town Hall and are planning on having a historic consultant look at the Town Hall clock tower leak.

The Arlington Historical Commission meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be September 7, 2010 at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.